produced." The better judgment of Councils was so hefogged by the pecuniary hint, that on January 31, 1798, it offered the company £50,000 for onehalf of the water of the canal, or so much as would pass through a water-way twelve and a half feet wide, by three and a half feet deep. As the proposal was rejected, the committee reported in favor of purchasing the rights and privileges of the company, intending to convey the water into reservoirs or elsterns, placed in the cellars or lower floors of houses, thence to be pumped or carried as required. Fortunately for the citizens of all generations, Councils had got clearer ideas by this time, and rejected this project. Our citizens, however, made a narrow escape from having Broad street cut up with a narrow ditch, and the city split into two sections to make a big dividend for a grasping corporation, with penalties of hundreds of thousands of dollars threatened for any invasion of the said corporate rights of the benevolent

stockholders.
Spring Mill Project. Another committee was appointed by Councils in 1798, to examine the subject and ascertain whether a sufficient supply could not be obtained by water power, and whether such supply could be secured within a reasonable distance of the city. The services of B. H. Latrobe were engaged, and an examination was made of the Schuylkill and the adjoining streams. In July a report was made recommending the bringing of Spring Mill creek a distance of twelve miles, by means of an aqueduct, into the centre of the city, where it was to be raised into reservoirs by steam power. The estimated cost of this undertaking, huge for those days, was \$275,000. This plan, however, was rejected in favor of the Centre Square Works.

In olden times the four meagre patches of grass and stunted trees that now disfigure the intersections of Broad and Market streets were anited into one goodly Centre Square: and had not a short-sighted policy led to its bisection into quarters by the direct extension of those two broad thoroughfares, this city would now boast of a location for its new municipal buildings unsurpassed in the country. Mr. Latrobe's adopted plan was to supply the city with the water of the Schuylkill by erecting a steamengine at Chesnut street wharf and another at Centre Square. The project was a difficult one to put into execution, as no city was supplied by steam-pumping machinery, and as there were then only three steam engines of any power in the United States. A special loan of \$150,000 was authorized by ordinance, February 7, 1799, and the work was commenced May 2. After much exertion Nicholas Roosevelt, of Soho Works, on the river Passaic, New Jersey, contracted to erect two steam engines able to raise daily three millions of gallons fifty feet high, for \$30,000. When finished, these were the largest steam engines in the United States, and their construction by inexperienced workmen, with defective tools, was a great undertaking

A basin was formed on the river Schuvlkill at the foot of Chesnut street, extending from low water mark two hundred feet eastwardly, and eighty-four feet wide, provided with a set of tide-lock gates. The bottom of this basin was three feet below low water mark; from this the water passed through a slufee to a second basin, or rather an open canal, forty feet wide, and one hundred and sixty feet long. The sides of both these basins were inclined, and paved with marble. At the head of the canal was a sluice gate, set in marble, which admitted the water into a subterranean tunnel of oval form, six feet in its greatest diameter. and three hundred feet long, cut nearly its whole distance through solid rock, and emptying into a well in which were placed the pumps of the lower Schuylkill engine, at old Schuylkill Front and Chesnut streets. This shaft or well was thirty-nine feet deep, and ten feet diameter. From it the water was raised into a brick tunnel six feet in diameter, and thirty-one hundred and forty-four feet in length, which passed down to Broad and thence to Centre Square.

Centre Square was then surrounded by a wooden fence, and contained a fountain more artistically designed than the mud heaped specimens of grotesqueness at Fairmount; another singular anomaly was that in those days the fountain used to play its streams for the gratification of passers-by, but such a shocking waste been tolerated by the officials for years. The Centre Square engine-house, or "pepper box," as it was familiarly known, on account of its high dome, was a sightly marble building of sixty feet square, twenty-five feet high, with front and rear portices having each two Dorle columns, with an inner circular building forty by a dome.

These engines were very defective, the leverpumps, cisterns, and even the boilers being made of wood. These were boxes nine feet high. nine feet wide, and fifteen teet long, made of five-inch plank, botted and braced. Inside of these were the fire-boxes of wrought iron, with vertical flues of cast iron; subsequently a cast iron boiler was substituted. Boller plate iron was then unknown; the largest sheets of wrought iron were fifteen inches by three feet, and had to be squared by the purchaser. The steam cylinder of the Centre Square engine was cast in two pieces, united by copper, the joints being seamed externally by a cast iron band eighteen inches wide. Although the cylinder was only inches long, nearly four months were consumed in boring it. The pumps were double acting force pumps, lined with sheet copper, to make

them air-tight. The Schuylkill engine ran sixteen revolutions per minute, and pumped 1,474,560 gallons in twenty-four hours, consuming seventy bushels of bituminous coal. The Centre Square engine pumped 962,520 gallons, consuming flity-five bushels. The latter elevated the water into two wooden tanks into the top of the building; one of these was ten feet in diameter by twelve deep: the other fourteen feet diameter by twelve bank was a solld rock, which it was necessary deep, and both contained 17,004 gallons. When to excavate to the width of 140 feet to form a in working trim the engine could pump these | race and a site for the mill-house running paralfull in twenty-nve minutes, and they were ex- lel with the river. The length of the mill-race

ever the roughly-built machinery got out of order. people had to suffer. The water from the tanks was conducted into a cast-iron distributing chest, from which two wooden logs, of six inch bore, ran down Market street to Front, one of 41/2 inch down Arch to Front, and one 414 inch

down Chesnut to Front, with side connections. These works commenced supplying the city January 27, 1801, and the subscribers to the water loan received water without charge for three years. In 1803 public hydrant-pumps and iron fire-plugs were first introduced, and the first iron pipes were laid as an experiment in Water street. The cost of the works to this date was \$295,432. In 1811 there were 230 hydrant-pumps and 185 fire-plugs in the city. The expenditures then amounted to \$508,511.

The Fairmount Works.

The Centre Square Works soon proving deficient, in 1811 Councils again turned their attention to the Delaware and Schuylkill Canal, but abandoned the project on realizing that its level was only six inches above the highest point in the city. Frederick Graff and John Davis, by appointment, then made surveys of Wissahickon and Spring Mill creeks, and the east side of the Schuylkill, from Upper Ferry Bridge to the Falls. December 18 they reported in favor of steam works at Fairmount, and the report was adopted.

The first purchase at Fairmount was made June 12, 1812, for \$16,666-67, and the steam works were commenced in August.

Reservoir No. 1 was completed and the steam works first started September 7, 1815, when Centre Square Works were abandoned. In 1817 were first laid iron pipes similar to those now used, and they proved so satisfactory that no wooden pipes were laid the next year. The boiler of the engine furnished by Oliver Evans burst June 20, 1818.

To raise 2,300,000 gallons daily at this time cost \$84.50. As the supply furnished was again found to be too scanty and too expensive, Councils resolved. April 8, 1819, to erect water-power works at Fairmount. At this time, the Schuylkill Navigation Company had built their canal from Pottsville to the Falls of Schuylkill, where want of funds had compelled them to stop the work. The committee saw that by the creetion of a dam at Fairmount both the company and the water works would be benefitted; agreements were therefore entered into, prior to April, for the purchase of the water-power at the Falls of Schuylkill destroyed by backing the water by the new dam, and also with the Schuylkill Navigation Company for the use of the water granted to them by their charter.

The building of the dam was commenced April 19, 1819; the first iron main, twenty-two and twenty inch diameter, was laid June 25, 1820; the last crib was sunk July 23, 1821, while the first water flowed over the dam January preceding. The corner-stone of the mill buildings was laid July 1. Monday, October 25, 1822, the first water wheel started to work to supply the city; the use of the steam works was discontinued January 14, 1823, and in the following year extra water-power was purchased from the Navigation Company for \$26,000. In 1826 the city contracted to supply the districts of Spring Garden, Northern Liberties, and Southwark; in 1832 to supply Moyamensing; in 1833 to supply Kensington. December 31, 1844, the supply of water was discontinued to Spring Garden, Northern Liberties, and Konsington; January 1, 1845, at new contract was made to supply Moyamensing and Southwark for ten years from date."

Wheel No. 4 was started and reservoir No. 3 finished, November 10, 1827; the second main from Fairmount was laid in 1829; Centre Square angine building was taken down in 1829, and on February 13 of that year the Legislature passed the bill to prevent the passage of streets through Fairmount. Wheel No. 5 was started April 5, 1832: wheel No. 6, November 5, 1834: wheels Nos 1, 2, 3, which had been rebuilt with their pumps, July 14, 1846. A bill for the protection of the purity of Schuylkill water was passed by the Legislature December 20, 1834. The pavilion at the end of the dam was built in 1835, and the old engine building altered to a public saloon: in 1837 the retaining wall on Fairmount street was built. May 2, 1842, the rebuilding of the dam from low-tide up was commenced, and the work was completed December 7, 1843, at a cost of \$56,216. Reservoir No. 4 was completed in 1836, and water was admitted into No. 5 December 22, 1852. The three-inch pipe on Water street was taken up in 1846, and relaid with six-inch in accordance with Stephen Girard's will: Biddle street was vacated by act, March 9, 1847; and the same year the garden was enlarged and enclosed with an iron rading. The "Jonval Turbine" water-wheel went into operation December 16, 1851.

Construction of the Dam.

The dam at Fairmount was constructed by Mr. Ariel Cooley: the first crib was sunk on the 19th of April, 1819, and water flowed over the dam January 25, 1821. Mr. Cooley died a short at an expenditure of about \$200,000. time prior to its completion, from the effects of exposure while building it. The over-full of the of water near the Fairmount works has scarcely | dam is 1204 feet long; the mound-dam, 270 feet, and the head arches, 104 feet, making its whole length, including the western pier, 1600 feet. It backs the water up the river for six miles. It is constructed as follows: 270 feet is stone, quarry spawl and earth, raised fifteen feet above the level of the water in the dam. This mound is terminated by a strong pler of feet in diameter and sixty feet high, covered | timber. filled with stone. The mad and water where this part of the dam is built, extends, in depth, about thirty feet below low beams, fly-wheel, shafts and arms, cold water | tide. Next to this, 450 feet of the over-fall is in water from 14 to 19 feet deep at low tide; in this space cribs are sunk and filled with stone, up to ow water; these are all secured together and backed with earth and stone. Upon this foundation the dam is built: of timber filled with stone. For the remaining distance beyond the deep water, the dam rests upon rock, bare at ebb tide. In many places the structure of the dam is over 30 feet high.

The first dam was completely rotten above high tide. declared. and rebuilt at the end of the twenty-third year after its ercetion. The present structure has been in use, the western half for twenty-six and thirty-six inches in diameter and six feet six, the eastern half for twenty-seven years. New cribs were sunk in 1866 immediately in front of the dam, in deep water, and very materially add to the safety of the structure. Indging, however, from experience, it is but reasonable to assume that the present one has reached nearly the termination of its usofalness, the difference in his favor being that the timber used in its construction was of much better quality than that or the old one, and the work

was much better done. The Works. On the east side of the river the whole of the

60 feet. On the west of the excavation are | the Spring Garden at Twenty-sixth and Master; which very frequently occurred, the erected the mill-houses forming the west side of the race, which is supported on the other side by the rock rising eighty feet perpendicularly. The south end of the wall of the race is also solid rock, and the mill houses are founded on

> The race was constructed about ninety feat in width, and the head arches supply it with a passage of water sixty-eight feet in depth. The mill buildings were built of stone, and were 238 feet long by lifty-six feet wide. The details of their appearance are of course familiar to all our readers.

These contained, in 1860, eight wooden breastwheels and one turbine; the former pumped 633,811 gallons per hour, and the latter 87,408, making a total capacity of 721,210 gallons, and the average of each pump 80,135 gallons.

In 1861-2 the New Mill House was constructed at Fairmount, to secure additional supplies from the large amount of surplus water that passed over the dam ten months in the year. A cofferdam was carefully constructed, and 350 piles were driven into mud and gravel from sixteen to twenty-three feet.

The interstices were filled in with broken stone into which grout was run, and upon a platform of stout planking, 113 feet by 23 feet, the masonry for the foundations was laid. The Turbine wheels are placed near the south front of the wheel-house, and two pumps are worked by each wheel, making six in all. They are placed in pairs horizontally, one on each side. They are eighteen inches in diameter, with six feet stroke of piston. The mean capacity of all six pumps is estimated to be from sixteen to eighteen million gallons per day.

In 1868-9 the important work was undertaken of substituting a turbine wheel and new pumps for the old breast wheels Nos. 2 and 3, with the rebuilding and enlarging of the old mill-house. The new wheel is the largest of the kind in the country, being ten feet three inches in diameter. and seventeen inches deep in the bucket; it will drive two double-acting force-pumps, twentytwo inches diameter and six feet stroke; these will deliver their water into the reservoir, through a main thirty six Inches diameter and about two hundred and forty feet long. The forebay not being of sufficient depth to admit of a main of such large size being put upon the bottom, it is suspended across the forebay nine feet above the ordinary level of the water on the dam, by means of wroughtiron suspension links. In remodelling the works, it has not been thought expedient to alter the style of architecture, or materially change its general external appearance. The whole work of colargement has been done in the most substantial manner, with cut stone walls, and roof of wrought-iron girders, with intermediste brick arches, supported upon wroughtfron columns. The whole, when completed, will be fire-proof, enduring, and suitable for a work of the importance and magnitude required for the supply of water to a large city.

Schaylkill Works. The districts lying north of Vine street, viz., Northern Liberties, Spring Garden, and Kensington, all formerly known as Northern Liberties, were without a supply of water, except from wells, pumps, and natural sources, until 1826, when a contract was entered into with the old city authorities for a supply from Fairmount works. As buildings rapidly increased upon the higher ground north of the city, it became fully apparent that a supply would have to be procured with a superior head to Fairmount. These districts were empowered to construct special water works, by the act of April 18, 1843; but the Commissioners of Kensington refused to unite with the other districts.

The corper-stone of the engine-house was laid July 1, 1844; the works were finished and started December 31, and delivered to the joint Watering Committee by the Commissioners, July 15, 1845. The whole cost was \$231,711, and the works paid a profit of \$16,700 the first year they were in operation. In 1854, this, with all the other outlying water works, in accordance with the act of Consolidation, passed into the possession of the Water Department.

These works are situated on the Schuylkill, at the foot of Thompson street. The water passes first through a sluice-way into the forcbay, and is taken from thence by the pumps. The engine and boiler houses are a collection of substantial stone buildings. There are four engines and ten boilers, besides a new and powerful Cornish engine. 72-inch diameter of cylinder, and ten feet of stroke; this is capable of raising 7,500,000 gallons of water in twenty-four

Delaware Works.

The district of Kensington, after the withdrawal of its Commissioners, entered into a contract for a supply of water from the Schuylkill works. The rapid increase of the district in population and manufactories induced the Commissioners, Dec. 20, 1847, to resolve to erect independent works. In 1851 the works were finally started, and the reservoir finished in 1852,

The works are situated on the Delaware river at the foot of Wood street, in the Eighteenth ward. The water is taken from the end of the wharf which projects some distance into the river, passes through a sluice-way to the frent of the boiler house, from thence by separate pipes [to the pumps. The engine and boller house is a substantial brick building; it contains two engines and two boilers.

Twenty-fourth Ward Works. In the fall of 1851, the District Commissioner of West Philadelphia resolved to erect water works to supply their needs; but in carrying their project into execution they chose a plan of comparatively small cost. Operations were commenced January 24, 1858, a short distance above Fairmount dam, on the west side of the Schuylkill. The water from the river first passes through a tunnel to a chamber in which are placed three strainers: after the removal of the sediment, the water is conducted into the subsiding reservoir, which is 165 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 16); feet deep. The buildings are all of stone, of the hard gueiss rock found in the vicinity. There are two Cornish engines: the steam cylinder of each is fifty inches bore, and the stroke of the piston eight feet. Each engine will pump about 54,000 gallons per hour.

Germantown Works. These were formerly owned by a private company and supplied a portion of the Twentysecond ward; they were first run in 1851. The supply of water was procured from Tulpehocken Reservoirs.

The storage capacity of the reservoirs is an Pairmount (4 reservairs) .... 97,000,000 gallons. Corinthian Ave. (1 reserveir) 40,000,000 Spring Garden (2 reservoirs). 9,000,000 "

Making a total capacity of . 85,000,000 Not three days mean average supply, or two days of the greatest demand. These are all constructed in the most substautial manner. The Corinthian is situated at

hausted in the same time. Consequently, when | is 410 feet, the greatest depth of the excavation | Twenty-second street and Corinthian arenue; the Kensington at Lehigh avenue and Sixth street, Nineteenth Ward.

Character of Water. The Schuylkill river is remarkable for its purity; but during seasons of freshet the water is turbid, the discoloration being caused by finely divided particles of clay held in suspension. The essentials of good water are, that it should be as free as practicable from organic matters; it should not be too hard, and it should e brisk. In these respects the Schuylkill is far aperior to the Delaware, which is ofttimes sgusting from the decomposition of the larger oulk of organic matter held in solution by it.

From the following table it will be seen Philadelphia compares most favorably with other leading cities in these particulars:-RESULTS CALCULATED FOR PARTS OF MAT-TER IN 100,000 PARTS OF WATER.

Cities Supplied	Source of Water.	Increases.	Organization Violatile.	Total Solida.
Boston Trenton Philadelphia Brooklyn New York Cleveland Chicago Jersey Gity Newark Paria London	Cochituate, Boston. Delaware River, Schuyikill, Fairmount Delaware. Itilgewood Croion. Lake Erie Lake Michigan.  Passaic River. Seine. West Middlesex Co.	3 95 4 97 4 49 6 72 8 13 9 63 7 85	4:90	10 75 11 44 19 75 15 13

Since the consolidation of the city in 1854, the plan of water supply for the entire community has been administered on a more comprehensive plan than previously, though the chief engineers in charge have unquestionably been much hampered by the diversified series of works constructed without any reference to a general unity of action. The vast increase of population has at least kept pace with every improvement in supply, and it is only of very late years any comprehensive measures have been agitated to provide for the future in advance of the demand.

Some odd projects have been broached from time to time, such as forsaking the brimming Schuylkill and tapping the meagre little Perkiomen, in order to procure an unfailing supply for generations to come: but the drought of this summer pretty effectually squelched that plan. if it was not already extinct. It would scarcely be profitable for Philadelphia to put herself is the pitiable condition of New York a few weeks since, when her aqueduct was almost dry and her receiving reservoirs only contained three days' supply.

Thanks to the liberal-minded Commissioners of the Park, satisfactory provisions have been made to preserve the purity of the Schuylkill from contamination by offal and factory impurities, by securing the land along the river banks as far as Manayunk for the park. It has been estimated that should the rate of increase make the population in 1887 2,278,680, then 145,000,000 gallons will be required daily. The average flow of the river would furnish 3,500,000,000 per month, or 116,000,000 gallons dally, and the balance could be easily obtained by the use of steam power for one-third of the year at a total cost of half a million dollars. Therefore the committee reported that through the powers vested in the Park Commission and City Councils, the river Schuylkill may be made a suitable source of supply for very many years; and that by the construction of compensating reservoirs. (as above indicated), and by the employment of steam-power in part, the quantity of water will be ample for at least tifty years, and it believes that this can be effected without unreasonable expense, and at much less cost than any other plan proposed for the introduction of other

streams. Great Freshets. Freshets over Fairmount Dam over 6 feet in height which have occurred since the erection of the dam in 1820:-

June 26, 1839, 10 feet 2 inches. February 10, 1840, 7 feet. June 7, 1841, 8 feet. March 14, 1846, 7 feet 1 inch July 19, 1850, 8 feet. September 2, 1850, 10 feet 11 inches. August 16, 1867, 7 feet 4 inches. October 4, 1869, 11 feet 6 inches.

February 21, 1822, 9 feet 1 inch.

Statistics of Fairmount Water Works. Amount of Amount of Number Water Rents, Expenditures, of Tenun's \$278 5,050 \$57,623 1806. 1816. 19,974 51,219 1821. 24.584 115.7464,590 5,879 1,400,00 29,764 1826 65,694 2,420,000 68,009 3,492,664 4,445,630 19,674 1888 .101.266 71,706 1841 124,634 24,701 24.82993,380 29,014 5,690,744 1851...140,313

From 1801 to 1852 the amount of water rents received from the Fairmount Water-Works was \$3,094,844 S5; the expenditures, \$3,246,614 05; the tenants in 1822, 30,502; and the average dally supply of water that year 5,731,744 gailons, being an average of 21 to each tenant. Wooden pipes were in use until 1832, and a total of 241,604 feet were laid in that period. In 1804 3078 feet of iron pipes were laid, but not until 1820 did they come into competition with the former; 457,401 feet of the latter were laid. The office of engineer and superintendent was filled in 1801 and 1802, by B. H. Latrobe; 1803 and 1804, by John Davis; from 1805 to 1846, by F. Graff, Sr.: from 1847 to 1855 by F. Graff, Jr. 1856 and 1857 by Samuel Ogdin: 1858 to 1861 by Henry P. M. Birkinbine; 1862 and 1863 by Isaac S. Cassin: 1864 to 1867 by Henry P. M. Birkinbine: from 1868, by Frederick Graff.

Statistics Since Consolidation. Amos. I Pumped par Anovin. 4,970,785,912 4,876,528,028 11,700,78 15,671,963 6.317,903,116 18,738 15 0.839.425.0507,168,031,617 19,635,44 465, 740, 277 7,590,079,938 20,728,935 9,495,775,141 25, 480, 451 9,307,007,849 11 050,569,181

T.St.Phys.	10,614,5	10,614,344,464 10,863,421,498 11,985,178,883	
Isus.,	RECEIPTS AN	D. EXPENDITE	nre.
1858 1859 1860 1861 1862 1863 1864	Total Receipts From All Shares a, 2689, 037 803, 807 425, 964 457, 048 751, 180 658, 531 569, 678 610, 113	Pearly Increase. \$73,008 \$1,081 95,582 7,351 Decrease. 11,813 23,885 40,134 26,276	# 250 83 100 86 200 60 187 97 411 73 253 50 933 99 177 37 218 75 253 60
1865 1866 1867 1869	670,393 707,451	38,884 96,999 9,559 out 174 miles i	616.71 575.84 809.91
laid.	n 1855 to 1809 at	out ser annes i	radio en tress sel Estad Méri

The number of registered consumers. January 1809, was 93,094 for dwellings, 19,062 for stables, 959 for manufactories, 710 for steam ongines and boilers, 13.333 horse power.

During 1858 Fairmount Works supplied 8,024,530,911 gallons, at a running expense of \$15,078; cost of raising water into reservoir. per million gallons, \$1-88. Schuylkill works, 2,337,365,642 gallons, at an expense of \$35,830 cost per million gallous, \$1148. Delaware Works, 705,442,350 galloes, at an expense of \$19,664; cost per million gallons, \$27.87. Twenty-fourth Ward Works, 727,824,780 gallons, at an expense of \$12,031; cost per million gallons, \$16.53. Germantown Works, 190,015,200 gallons, at an expense of \$8186; cost per million gaffons, \$44-64.

Of the total expenditures for the Water Department in 1868, \$415,845 were for the extension and repairs of the works.

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ing the damaging of ceilings and furniture while under
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